

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the production of wood composite boards, comprising:
- (a) a press having platens for forming the board; and
  - (b) means for regulating the temperature of the platens, the regulating means including:
    - (i) <sup>14A-13a</sup> means for circulating a heating fluid through the platens,
    - (ii) <sup>13b</sup> means for detecting the temperature of the heating fluids )
    - fluid as it exits the platens; and
    - (iii) <sup>13c</sup> means for responding to the detected temperature for heating the fluid supplied to the platens.
2. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the press is selected from the group consisting of multi-platen press and continuous press.
3. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the heating fluid is selected from the group consisting of heated natural gas, superheated steam, and heated oil.
4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the heating means comprises a heat exchanger.